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From: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 4:28 PM
To: Salemi, Charles (DPH); Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Subject: a protocol for the spot test reagents

Last summer I was challenged fairly relentlessly in cross examination about the expiration dates of our spot test reagents. I was able to assert that they are turned over at least annually, if not sooner and they are all reliable for about a year.

I noted the exception is the Marquis which decays between 10 and 12 months, which we replace every 2 months.

As we have been refreshing our various spot test stock, I have been saving the older material to test it out for its reliability at 3 months, 6 months and a year. With this survey, I would like to write an SOP that all spot test reagents are refreshed as needed or at a minimum of every 6 months. Any of these preps made to a volume of 500 ml are typically consumed in under 6 months and replaced. The Marquis is the exception. This material I replace every 2 months.

I would like to present this as a lab convention ASAP. Two junior chemists just prepared about two years worth of Meckes reagent, which has taken up a third of my stock space in the cabinet and I intend to pitch out in 6 months.

Your thoughts please?